

## School Employee Health Insurance Market Changes – 2003 to 2006

It is often said that there is no competition in the school health insurance market with a result that school employees enjoy the best health coverage and that they are not forced to make changes that parallel what is happening in other sectors. The chart below illustrates the changes that occurred from 2003 to 2006 in the 50 percent of the school market served by MESSA insurance plans.

The four bars at the left illustrate the decline in the number of employees covered by the “Super Care” plans, the traditional fee for service insurance offered by MESSA. The next group of four bars illustrates the corresponding increase in employees covered by the “Choices” plans, the PPO products of MESSA. The two groups at the right show the relative stability in the number covered by the point of service plans and the Medicare supplement plans.

Clearly, competition in the marketplace is working. Like everyone else, school employees are shifting to plans with less coverage, higher deductibles and higher co-pays. The myth does not match the facts.

